## AMENDMENT

**In The Specification:**

Please replace the third paragraph of page 2 to the last third paragraph of page 3 of the specification as the followings:

The NOD2/CARD15 gene has the following Gene Bank Accession Number: AC007728 and NG_007508.1 (SEQ ID NO. 14) from the NCBI data base~~AQ534686~~. The nucleotide sequence is available with the help of the given accession numbers from the NCBI data base at http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/.

The NOD2 gene has 3123 nucleotides (1040 amino acids, Gene Bank Accession Number NM_022162 (SEQ ID NO. 13)), (NOD: Nucleotide Oligomerisation Domain) and is located in the pericentromeric region of chromosome 16 (16p12-q21). In the meantime, the name of the gene NOD2 was changed to CARD15 (CARD: Caspase Activating Recruitment Domain). Caspases play an important role in apoptosis. In addition to the CARD domain, NOD2/CARD 15 has a ATB binding domain. NOD2/CARD15 serves as intracellular receptor for bacterial products and transduces the signal for the activation of NFkappaB (NF-κB).

Among others, the single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) Nod2-SNP8, Nod2-SNP12, Nod2-SNP13 may occur in the NOD2/CARD15 gene. SNPs are caused by a base exchange or insertion of an additional base into the DNA sequence.

SNP8 (SNP data base http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/SNP/index.html, Accession Number ss2978536) refers to a polymorphism in the NOD2/CARD15 gene resulting from the C → T exchange of the nucleotide in position 2209 (NM_022162). As a result, R702W is exchanged within the protein. SNP8 is located in chromosome 16 in chromosome position 50523959 (NOD2/CARD15 Gen - Exon 5). Hugot JP et al., Association of NOD2 leucine-rich repeat variants with susceptibility to Crohn's disease. Nature 2001, 411, 599–603.

SNP12 (SNP data base , Accession Number ss2978537) refers to a polymorphism in the NOD2/CARD15 gene resulting from the G → C exchange of the nucleotide in position 2827 (NM_022162). As a result, G908R is exchanged within the protein. SNP12 is located in chromosome 16 in chromosome position 50534573 (NOD2/CARD15 Gen - Exon 9). Hugot JP et al., Association of NOD2 leucine-rich repeat variants with susceptibility to Crohn's disease. Nature 2001, 411, 599–603.

SNP13 (SNP data base, Accession Number rs5743293~~ss2978539~~) refers to a polymorphism in the NOD2/CARD15 gene resulting from one-base insertion of the nucleotide C in nucleotide position 3124 (NM_022162). SNP13 is located in chromosome 16 at the chromosomal position 50541811^50541812. The insertion results in a frameshift leading to a reduced NOD2 with 1007 amino acids (Ogura et al., Nature 2001, 411, 603-606).